



**HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL VIRGINIA WING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY**
7401 Airfield Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23237-2250



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**TO: ALL VIRGINIA WING SENIOR MEMBERS AND CADETS
COMMANDERS PLEASE POST**

FROM: HQ, VIRGINIA WING, Administrative Assistant, Terry Picha

UNIT NEWSLETTER: It is very important that you share this Newsletter with all Members of your Unit. Please review this material at your unit meeting and post a copy on your Bulletin Board so that it will be available to ALL members. (Members can't participate if you do not tell them about coming events). This Bulletin is posted on the Virginia Wing Paperless Website as a PDF document.

Mar 2003

- 29 Commander's Call for Unit CC's, Group CC's and Wing Staff; all Commander's and members are welcome, Wing HQ, Richmond**
- 1-2 AFRCC Course/Tabletop Exercise OPOD 03-006 MLR 03-043**
- 15-16 VA WG SARCAP, location Newport News, VA**
- 22 Counter Drug OPS Training, Terminal Bldg., Richmond, VA**
- 22 MER Staff Meeting @ VAWG HQ**
- 22-23 CANCELLED - VA WG GSAR, Fort AP Hill #1**
- 26-30 Aircrew Training Days**

REPORTS DUE:

- 5 - Corp. Vehicle Inspection Reports**
- 10 - VA Wg A/C Utilization Reports due (Including Checks)**
- Public Affairs Report**

1. **WING COMMANDER** – I am pleased to announce the appointment of C/Lt Col Stew Sibert to the position of Cadet Wing Commander. This is a new position for Virginia Wing. His appointment recognizes the outstanding work done by C/Lt Col Sibert and his stated goals to forge a strong cadet officer cadre. Please join me in congratulating C/Lt Col Sibert.

2. **CHIEF-of-STAFF-** The third Monday of each month has been set aside for a Wing Staff Meeting. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

3. **FINANCE:** Any member who uses a Wing-issued fuel credit card must write the mission number on the receipt when they sign the slip. It has become very difficult to match fuel receipts to missions. If there is no mission number, please identify what the charge was for.

Any unit purchasing tangible personal property for use by CAP should contact the Wing Director of Finance so that a sales and use tax certificate of exemption may be completed and faxed or mailed to the business you are buying items from. I will need the name of the business and the address with zip code. This past year we have been hit especially hard with sales tax on vehicle parts. Please try to plan ahead so that the certificate can be completed and sent to the business before the bill is completed.

Any unit who changes commander or finance officer must complete an audit of the unit finances within 30 days after the change. Please refer to CAPM 173-1, Para 4 for instructions. You must use Attachment 1 as your checklist.

After a review of all unit finance reports, I noted that several units are still accounting for funds received from or paid to other CAP entities. If you receive money from any CAP unit below National HQ, use account

3280. If you pay money to any CAP unit below National HQ, use account 7420. Use the name on the check to help you determine which accounts to use.

A final note on fundraising and donations will help unit finance officers distinguish between the two categories. If you had to work to get the money then it is fundraising. If someone just gives you money it is a donation.

4. WING NEWS: Visit the VA Wing Web page (<http://www.vawg.cap.gov/paperless/login/htm>) to view, download, and print the new wing supplements and forms. This is a new login sequence so please change your bookmarks accordingly.

If you read this Bulletin, drop me an email and let me know. Admin@vawg.cap.gov.

The next time you are online at home, log in the National HQ. Pull up your personal record and check all the information. Don't forget to check your area code, phone number, home and email address. Wing Admin cannot change this information for you-you must do it yourself. The information in your record at National is used by the VAWG Paperless website. If it is not correct, you may be missing out.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Please submit articles to the Civil Air Patrol News. We invite you to submit articles regarding special events, aerospace activities, change of command, ES missions, cadet program activities, field trips, training exercises...the sky's the limit. Please make sure you include pertinent information using the "who, what, where, when and why" formula and you'll have a good article.

A Mission Information Officer (MIO) course will be held during the SAR College (See item 9). This will be an opportunity to interact with your fellow PAOs. A briefing scenario will give you an opportunity to write releases and develop relationship with the media. For more information, contact karenc@smyth.net.

I just wanted to let everyone know about the recruiting materials order page on national's web site. This does not include the video's that you are wanting but we do have a recruiting video that was sent to the commander of every unit last September. We have a limited supply of it on CD, and can be requested by contacting national headquarters. It can only be played on a computer or X-Box, Playstation, Nintendo gamecube or something with a duel reader on it. You can order all recruiting materials by going on-line to our web-site at www.caphq.gov and clicking on e-services or contact you DAE.

6. CADETS: The Cadet Resources website is CadetStuff.org. This website has been developed for cadets and those working with them. Visit the website; send your feedback to CAPSGT@aol.com.

Any information you may need for requirements and procedure for Cadets interested in applying as staff for this year's encampment, paperwork needed etc can be found at www.vawg.cap.gov the cadet programs. Our NCSA package was sent to National Headquarters just ahead of the required due date, so I am hopeful that we will get as many of our Cadets into their chosen activities as possible. Unfortunately there are many more applications from all over the country than there are slots available. If you don't get a slot this year, please, don't take it as a rejection but more like luck of the draw!

The Wing Color Guard and Drill team competition is fast approaching. This activity is to be held at Wing HQ on 8 March 2003. Our objective is to select the team that will represent the Wing at the Region competition and subsequently the Region at the National event. To date I am aware of three Color Guards and one drill team. If there are any other drill teams who wish to compete could you please make yourselves known. I will need judges for this event. I am hopeful that I can coerce some reservists to help out with this activity, but I may need some seasoned CAP senior member support.

You may have (should have) seen an email from me regarding guidons. The Wing Commander is hopeful that all units will have a guidon that will serve as a rallying point at every wing wide activity. To this end some of you have responded with the status of your guidons. To those who have responded, I am grateful. To those who haven't yet, please let me know as soon as possible if you do or do not have a guidon in good order.

7. PERSONNEL: Please note: even though the current edition of CAPR 39-2 requires you send membership application and money to Wing, it has been superceded. **ALL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ALL DUES, NATIONAL AND WING, SHOULD BE SENT TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.**

8. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Here's your chance to move on to Level II. The VAWG Professional Development Team will be hosting a Squadron Leadership School (SLS) on 5-6 April 03 at Wing Headquarters. To attend you must have completed Level I and have it show on CAPWATCH. You must be enrolled in one or more specialty tracks (also on CAPWATCH) and have your Squadron Commanders approval to attend. Watch for a flyer being mailed to your Unit Commander that should be posted for all to see. ***No walk-ins will be allowed. CAP ID's are required.***

To make this an outstanding SLS class, we need interesting instructors! This is also a requirement for completing Level IV. If you have attended an SLS or completed Level III, have knowledge of a special area of CAP, look good, and have the recommendation of you Unit or Group Commander, Wing HQ wants you to teach and share your knowledge with our class. For questions or comments regarding this event, contact Lt Col Mary Kunkowski at kunkowski@attbi.com.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES – A “New and Improved” SAR College is coming to us this year! It will be held at Fort Pickett on 2, 3 and 4 May 2003. The plan this year is to have all applications taken online. Members who desire to go to MER SAR and do not have online access can request a paper application kit from your Wing HQ in March. We hope we can continue to count on the dedicated members of the VAWG to assist us at this annual region activity.

There continues to be a great deal of misunderstanding about Skills Evaluator Training (SET). I hope the following clarifies the major points. First, SET is REQUIRED for anyone to serve as an evaluator or examiner. Second, although the SET course is offered on the National Headquarters web site, this internet course is basically useless. Virginia Wing has certified 15 SET instructors throughout the Wing and provided them with instruction and a usable course. I STRONGLY urge everyone interested in participating in ES to take the Wing version at your earliest convenience. Third, Wing SET instructors who do not instruct at least one course per year will have their SET instructor qualifications revoked. Last, evaluators MUST not only understand their specialty rating, but must also be well versed in CAP Regulation 60-3, be experienced in the rating sought and be persons of integrity. Continual submission of undocumented or inadequate documentation will result in removal of an individual's evaluator status. It cannot be overemphasized that the quality of our ES program rests with the quality and integrity of the Wing's evaluators and examiners. Commanders must give careful thought to who they recommend for this important mission.

There has been a change of mission for the exercise in May. Instead of the SAR EVAL, the May exercise will be a SAR CAP hosted by Group 3. The SAR EVAL will instead be held 19 July at Chesterfield.

The VAWG GSAR that was to be held at Fort A. P. Hill has been cancelled until further notice. Due to military mobilizations and scheduling we will be looking at the Fall before rescheduling.

10. OPERATIONS: -The Monthly Aircraft Utilization Report, VAF-13, the CAPF 99, Flight Logs and any monies due Wing must be in Wing Headquarters by the 10th of each month. A FAX will not be accepted unless specifically directed by the Director of Operations.

Cases of aircraft engine oil are being stored at Wing Headquarters for use by the Squadrons with aircraft. Aircraft custodians can arrange to pick up cases of oil to be used for maintenance of planes. A check out sheet is posted in the shed to be filled out when you pick out oil. Give to Admin Assistant so oil can be ordered when needed.

11. SAFETY- I would like to thank the Unit Safety officers, as well as the Group Safety Officers, that have been submitting the quarterly and annual Safety Reports on time. Unfortunately, there are a few Units that have not sent their reports to Wing in a timely manner, and in some cases, are far over due. The Wing Commander has contacted those Units, and we have had limited response. These reports must be sent to Wing **NOW**. The Quarterly Reports are due at Wing Headquarters, and to the Group Safety Officers, by the 10th of the month following each quarter. The Annual Reports are due the 30th of January for the past year. These records will be inspected when OPR: NHQ CPA/EXAI inspects our Wing.

12. AEROSPACE EDUCATION- The 3rd AIAA Evolution of Flight Campaign Art Contest is now accepting entries. The theme is Celebrating Flight – The Next 100 years. In 2003, we will celebrate the accomplishments of Orville and Wilbur Wright and the technological advancements in flight over the past 1—hundreds. As we celebrate the anniversary of their first flight, we'd like for you to share your vision of what air/space travel will look like in the next 100 years. Use your imagination! Entries must be postmarked by 31 March and sent to:

If you are planning on going to NCASE in April I would appreciate it if you would let me know. Also if you know of any teachers who are going I would appreciate having them contact me either by e-mail at normamanheim@earthlink.net, by phone at 301-897-3414 or by snail mail at 5225 Pooks Hill, Unit 1626 South, Bethesda, MD 20814.

There are still some squadrons who have not given me the name and information on their unit AEO. I need this so that our records are complete for the Inspection. The Wing did do better this year with year-end reports but we still only had 12 reports come in and many of them were beyond the due date. Quarterly reports are due by April 5th. For those AEOs going to NCASE you can give your reports to me during NCASE. If you spend any time, outside your unit, in an AE related volunteer position please let me know including how many hours are spent. I have set up a member file to show the Inspection team that we are active in the State as well as in CAP.

13. TRANSPORTATION – Battery Charging - A Multitude of Hazards

Weather extremes, lack of use of a vehicle, power drains on the vehicles battery can all lead to some frustrating times when you want to use the vehicle and find yourself 'grounded' with a dead or weak battery.

When charging your battery consider the following information for your safety. Explosive hydrogen..Acidic liquids and vapors..Electrical burns..Strains, sprains, hernias and compressed discs. All of these hazards arise when servicing, charging, or jumping the common lead-acid battery found in cars and trucks. The hazards can be minimized by following a few common sense safety rules.

Eye Protection: First, always wear safety goggles or a face shield when working around a battery. Batteries contain corrosive acids that are capable of eating away metals. It takes just one droplet to cause serious eye damage. Just popping open the vent cap may throw out a droplet. A short or faulty regulator can cause the electrolyte to boil, releasing acid vapors. A fault within the battery could cause it to explode, throwing fragments of the case and acid.

Fire Protection: Lead-acid batteries produce flammable hydrogen gas while being charged. This highly explosive gas, generated within the cells, will expand and seep out of the vent caps. A cigarette, tool, or spark from any source could ignite the gas, causing the battery to explode. Always charge in a well ventilated area. Remember too that the battery is receiving a charge and releasing hydrogen when the car is running, not just when hooked up to a battery charger.

Jump Starting: Dead batteries in cars and trucks are not uncommon - particularly in winter. The first thought is to get a jump start. When jumping a battery, remember the following safeguards.

Be sure all electrical equipment is off. If you connect the jumper battery while a load is being drawn, a spark could occur.

Check the battery fluid level. If the plates are exposed, add water until they are covered.

Never add acid.

Make sure both batteries are of the same voltage.

Make sure vent caps are in place to prevent electrolyte splash.

Use good quality jumper cables - at least 10-gauge wire.

Always be sure of your polarity when arranging the jumper cables:

1. Connect the first cable to the positive (+) terminal of the good battery; then attach the other end of that cable to the positive (+) terminal of the dead battery.

2. Next, attach the second cable to the negative (-) terminal of the good battery, and make the fourth and last connection to a clean metal part, such as the engine block of the car being energized, rather than to its negative battery terminal. This completes the electrical circuit, as if it were connected to the dead battery, but if sparks are produced, it serves to keep them away from any explosive battery gases.

3. Never lay your tools on top of the battery. They could come in contact with both posts, or the positive post and a ground, creating a short.

Protect Your Back: Batteries are heavy. If you must move one, use a battery strap as a handle, keep your back straight - don't bend at the waist - and tighten your stomach muscles as you lift. Don't twist your spine as you lift or move it.

The batteries in your vehicle or on your boat are just as potentially dangerous. Respect the hazards and take no chances or short cuts!

This information came from the US Army ROTC program at Fort Bragg North Carolina. For additional vehicle safety topics you can visit the Virginia Wing Vehicle Operations Safety Site by clicking on this link. [Vehicle Safety](#).

14. GLIDER PROGRAM: Group 3 – Due to heavy snow in the Winchester area, Glider activity for February has all but been cancelled. The Maule was in the shop for it's 100 hour, 4-5 feet of snow and a hangar that had to be checked for structural integrity. Additional snow is forcast and we will need a working crew to find the hangar. As soon as possible, we will get back up and running.

Group 5 - February has not been a very good glider flight month. If the weather isn't lousy, airplanes are broken. Although the weather appeared to change back and forth, the tow plane N99559 encountered an unexpected problem during its annual. Tidewater Composite Squadron cadets were scheduled to fly and I know they were disappointed.

We now have lots of qualified ground personnel that are very anxious to kick things into high gear. Our tow pilot ranks are swelling. We still only have 1 glider pilot in the group, but at least so far that has not presented any problem. As soon as the weather begins cooperating a little better and the airplane is back up, we will make every effort to increase our activities. We will soon be ready to start accepting scheduling from other squadrons outside of the group. Be watching for coming information. Danville has already claimed the first slot !

15. CHAPLAIN/CISM The Virginia Department of Health, OEM is offering basic CISM training providing the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum. This training meets the requirement by CAP for membership on a CISM team. The dates and places for training are: March 8 -10 Fredericksburg area and Mar 20-21, '03 in the Radford area. We are looking for new members for our team and this is a rare opportunity to receive the needed training. Cost is only \$10. Contact Mary H. Bronson at 540-667-8194 for questions regarding the team or training.

Please join me in welcoming two new Moral Leadership Officer in the Virginia Wing. 2Lt Jim Becker of Leesburg Composite Squadron and Major Randy Hardy, Group 4 Commander were approved this week as our newest MLO's. We celebrate their appointment, and welcome them to the VAWG Chaplain Services team!

APR 2003

- 2-5 NCASE**, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 5-6 SLS Class**, VAWG Headquarters
- 18-20 CANCELLED-VAWG GSAR**, Fort A. P. Hill #2

REPORTS DUE: (Required by NHQ &/or Wing CC)

- 5** - Corp. Vehicle Daily Inspection Repots
- 10** - VA Wg A/C Utilization Reports due (Including Checks)
- 1st Qtr. Safety Repot
- 1st Qtr. Public Affairs Report and Monthly Report
- 1st Qtr. Aerospace Education Report
-

Cadet Activities

- 4-6 MER Cadet Competition**, Fort Picket
- 26-27 Cadet Encampment Staff Selections**

Newsbreak

August Composite Squadron- Once again Augusta Composite Squadron under the leadership of Commander Terry Gentile is busy making history. The big promotion and achievement was awarded to Joe Arbaugh by Commander Terry Gentile and Group 2 Commander Major David Duncan. Joe was awarded CAP Chaplain and promoted to 1st. Lt. He also has the distinction of being the first Mennonite chaplain in the history of CAP. Joe Arbaugh lives in Stuarts Draft with his wife Sharon and their four children. Joe has served in missions in Haiti for 20 years and his wife and children have served with him as well. We are very fortunate to have this addition to our squadron and once again we are growing in number as well as rank.

On February 24, 2003 promotions were awarded to: C/SMSgt Kessler; C/A1C Shraeder and Wilson; and C/Amn Allen. Senior member promotions include 1Lt Patty Gentile and Cindy Smith; Capt Rob Levy. Congratulate these members next time you see them.

Holston Valley Composite Squadron- The month of February was a busy one for the squadron after rescheduling most of our Jan meeting do to incimate weather. Several Senior Members participated in the Mini-SARCAP at Tazewell County Airport to refresh themselves in either the ES Qualification of Scanner or Observer.

SM Susan Van Fleet has been busy promoting CAP to the public. SM Van Fleet attended a presentation put on by the Kingsport Composite Squadron, TNWG at the North East State Community College in Blounteville TN, She has also spoke to members of the Abigdon VA Newcomers Club where about 50 women attended, and she has talked to the Educare students at E.B. Stanley Middle School and to a group of students she taught an aviation class to at the College of Older Adults. SM Van Fleet is a welcome and needed part of our program.

Currently SM Banks H. Garrison, TFO Justin Adkinson, and 2d Lt. Francis Tate Jr. are enrolled in the ECI Scanner Course and hopefully will gain their Scanner Qualifications within the next several months. TFO Justin Adkinson Squadron PAO had a chance to visit with the West Richmond Cadet Squadron on Thursday Feb 13, 2003 during their PT Meeting in belief that making contacts with other squadrons will help the squadron's public relations

Leesburg Composite Squadron- Leesburg faced a challenging month with the increase in terrorist threat level to code orange which added new restrictions in the air space around Leesburg including CAP aircraft. All aircraft flying in the new Washington ADIZ must now file a flight plan in advance and receive clearance and a unique squawk before taking off regardless of the type of flight. The new security restrictions also brought an end to Leesburg CAP meetings at the local National Guard Armory requiring the squadron to find a new meeting site at short notice. Leesburg Commander Steve Hertz arranged use of the local High School until we are allowed to return to our normal meeting location.

A heavy snow storm brought two and a half feet of snow to Leesburg collapsing the roofs on more than 10 hangers at the airport, luckily the Leesburg Composite hanger was unharmed. Despite the snow, Leesburg remained operationally ready due to the installation of a block heater on the CAP aircraft and snow clearing efforts of the squadron. Leesburg Senior member 2Lt. Jim Becker was approved by HNQ as our new Moral Leadership Officer. The first in recent memory. The squadron published its first monthly newsletter in January which will come out the last day of each month. Col. Mike Bennett, our Standards & Evaluation officer and a former United Airlines 777 captain presented an AOPA safety seminar on collision avoidance at the first February meeting. Congratulations to the following on their promotions: Cadets - C/2d LT White from First Sergeant to Flight Commander, A Flight; C/SMSgt Martin from acting Flight Commander, A Flight to First Sergeant; C/SMSgt Yarmie from Flight Sergeant, A Flight to acting Flight Commander, C Flight; C/TSgt Anna Hart to Flight Sergeant, A Flight; C/TSgt Lassiter to Flight Sergeant, C Flight and Seniors - Alexander Kocksch to 1Lt, Richard Ellis to 1Lt, Nelson Irey to 2Lt, Jim Becker to 2Lt and Tom Johnson to 2Lt. Well done all.

Langley Composite Squadron – Much to our regret, Langley will not have a color guard this season to enter competition. Hopefully after a rest, we can interest our members in participating again.

We had many cadet promotions during the month; they are C/Amn C. Meadows and J. Hilderbrand; C/A1C B. Kessler, J. Carey and P. Wojtas; C/SrA J. Osborne and D. Carter; C/SSgt R. Douglas and C. Jackson; C/MSgt A. Mascaro, C. Brock and M. Miller; and C/CMSgt L. Smith. Congratulation to one and all on their hard work to attain these positions.

At the Commander's Call on January 11, C/Capt's Tyler Crockett and Patrick Dolan were presented their Amelia Earhart Awards by Colonel J. Vazquez the Wing Commander.

SM Richard Kessler received his certificate for completion of Level 1. We also welcome back Capt J. Baker and 1 Lt N. Medlock.

Newport News Composite Squadron- The hard work and dedication of Newport News ES personnel was evident in the past month when we were tasked with assisting in establishing a communications base for the missing person search north of Richmond. Four Newport News members including two holding CUL ratings, took off from work, packed their overnight bags, left their families, and drove through hazardous weather to assist with this search.

February was dedicated in large part to training urban direction finding personnel as we prepare for the spring ELT season in Tidewater. Several seniors and cadets participated in classroom training as well as a full fledged practice ELT mission learning the principles and techniques of urban direction finding. Rest assured, that when you pager signals at 2am, Newport News will be prepared to respond.

Newport News continues to offer many excellent emergency services classes including those for communications, urban direction finding, and aircrew ratings. Classes are open to all CAP members. Class descriptions, syllabi, prerequisites, material lists, and schedules can be found on the Newport News web site: www.geocities.com/phfcap

Newport News is also incredibly proud to announce that Cadet Anthony Taylor was promoted from MSgt to SMSgt in the month of February. Congratulation Cadet Taylor. Your hard work has paid off!

Roanoke Composite Squadron- Has been performing their share of ELT searches this month. Col Glass, MER Command and Lt Col Tennant participated in locating ELT signals.

Southside Composite Squadron- On Tuesday, February 4, 2003, the cadets of Southside Composite Squadron had guest speaker Mr. Paul W. Krasa, an engineer at NASA Langley, come and speak to them about the future of flight. This future includes joysticks and computer-generated heads-up display in every aircraft. Booklets and decals were handed out and prizes of posters of the space shuttle and history of flight were handed out for answering questions correctly. Overall, the cadets had an excellent time with Mr. Paul Krasa and we hope he will join us again soon.

On February 8, 2003, six cadets and five seniors baby-sat at the Sandston National Guard Armory. Although a large turnout of children was expected, the cadets still had fun with the seven children that showed up. Highlights included watching "101 Dalmatians," playing ball, coloring, and an adorable sleeping baby.

On Sunday, January 19, 2003, six cadets and six seniors visited the Nauticus: The Maritime Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Even though the Battleship Wisconsin was closed, the cadets still enjoyed a day of simulators, battleship design information, and movies. On the way back home a special stop was made at Fuddruckers for hamburgers.

Friday, January 3, five cadets and three senior members went on a hiking trip to Little Bear Creed Park. SM Thiem planned the trip and drove the van. The trip was to accustom members to hiking with their ES gear. The weather was cold and wet; in some places the trails were flooded. The cadets had fun pulling the senior members over a creek and up a hill. No one knows if the cadets missed the trail deliberately or not, but the creek crossing was not on the itinerary. We ate lunch in the van because it was so cold. In spite of the weather, everyone had a great time and looked forward to going again. Well-maybe when it's warmer!

Winchester Composite Squadron- On 4 February 03, the Winchester Composite Squadron hosted Dr. Daniel F. Tully, a world renown architect and pilot who provided slides and a wild story about the time he flew a Maule solo across the Atlantic to Scotland.

On 13 February 03, I/Lt. Gina Hope, Winchester Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets, was awarded her Certificate for Proficiency and promoted to the rank of Captain by Lt Col. Jim Truxel, Group 3 Commander at an award ceremony held before the squadron cadets. Congratulations, Gina.

On 13 February 03, Lt Col. Duke Stanton briefed the Winchester Airport Authority about the upcoming visit by Brigadier General Clary, USAF Director of Homeland Security. General Clary and members of his staff will be visiting Winchester on 8 March to participate in glider and tow rides and to interface with cadets and seniors with regard to Civil Air Patrol capabilities. This past year the operation of the Civil Air Patrol was moved under the USAF Directorate of Homeland Security.

West Richmond Cadet Squadron- The West Richmond Cadet Squadron now has a new squadron commander, following a recent change of command ceremony held at the squadron's Richmond, VA headquarters on January 23rd. 2d Lt Robert Rickman officially took command of the squadron from outgoing commander Lt Col Tim Barker, who has been the commander for the past several years. Said Lt. Rickman "I have some big shoes to fill as Lt Col Barker departs. I hope I can continue the great things he has done for this squadron. It is certainly a privilege to command such a great bunch of cadets and I look forward to a very rewarding experience."

On January 3, 2003, Cadet David Butcher was awarded the General Billy Mitchell Award. Accordingly, Cadet Butcher has also been advanced to the rank of Cadet 2d Lt. To earn the award Cadet Butcher had to complete the first 8 of 16 achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. He also had to pass an arduous 100-question examination that tests leadership theory and knowledge of aerospace topics. Cadet Butcher successfully completed the examination in December 02. "The Mitchell Award will give me the chance to have elevated responsibilities within the organization as well as continue to train me for the future so that I may continue to serve my country in any thing that it might call me to do." said C/2d Lt Butcher.